

SNAPSHOT

MAKE A MANTLET COVER OUT OF TISSUE

IF THE MANTLET ON YOUR TANK is supposed to have a cover on it, consider this easy hack. Facial tissue and glue create a surprisingly realistic canvas topper.

Michael Grochola built Tamiya's 1/35 scale T-72M1 for the May 2021 issue of *FSM*. Following references, he draped a canvas cover over the tank's mantlet using single-ply tissue paper.



1

Tank anatomy lesson! The mantlet is an armored shield that protects the opening where the gun's barrel attaches to the turret. Many mantlets wear a canvas cover or tarp wrapped around them. Such is the case on this T-72 main battle tank.



2

To cover it with tissue paper, first split the tissue into single-ply (two-ply tissue is too thick). Then soak it in a 1:9 mix of Elmer's white glue and water. Carefully wrap the tissue around the mantlet, making sure to keep any overlap at the bottom of the mantlet, not the top.



3

Leave the tissue wrinkled for a cloth-like look. Once you're happy with it, cut off the excess and let it dry completely. You can use a small rubber band to simulate the ring often seen securing the cover.



4

When painting and weathering, be careful to avoid oversaturating the fragile tissue so it keeps its texture. Remember to paint the creases with shadows to make them stand out and look realistic. There you go, a quick and easy canvas mantlet cover. **FSM**